

Application No: 10/630,541 Docket No.: Q174-US1

Page 10

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JUL 25 2006****REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are currently amended. No new claims are added. No claims are cancelled. As a result, Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Rejection of Claim 12 Under 35 USC §112

Claim 12 stands rejected for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 12 is amended to specify that each "clip includes an opening extending from the interior foldline to the exterior foldline such that a portion of the tab to which the clip is attached is exposed through the opening" as shown in Figure 11A and disclosed in paragraph [0048]. Claim 12 also specifies "the first weld bonds together the portions of the positive electrode tabs that are exposed through the openings" as disclosed in paragraph [0048] in combination with Figure 11B. Because the specification teaches the subject matter of claim 12, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the Applicant was in possession of claim 12 at the time of filing.

Rejection of Claims 1 Under 35 USC §102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Re-issued Patent Number RE. 36,102 (Dougherty). Independent Claim 1 is amended to specify "a plurality of metal reinforcing strips" arranged such that "each reinforcing strip is attached to a single one of the tabs." Dougherty teaches straps used to electrically connect lugs. However, each strap is attached to a plurality of the lugs. Accordingly, Dougherty does not teach a reinforcing strip attached to a single one of the tabs and does not anticipate Independent Claim 1.

Rejection of Claim 21 Under 35 USC §102(b)

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Re-issued Patent Number RE. 36,102 (Dougherty). Independent Claim 21 is amended to specify that each tab has "a first reinforcing strip attached to a front face of the tab and a second reinforcing strip attached to a rear face of the tab such that each first reinforcement strip is attached to a single one of the tabs and each second reinforcement strip is attached to a single one of the tabs." Dougherty teaches straps used to electrically connect lugs. However, each strap is attached to a

Application No: 10/630,541 Docket No.: Q174-US1

Page 11

plurality of the lugs. Accordingly, Dougherty does not teach reinforcing strips that are each attached to a single one of the tabs and does not anticipate Independent Claim 21.

Rejection of Claim 22 Under 35 USC §102(b)

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Re-issued Patent Number RE. 36,102 (Dougherty). Independent Claim 22 is amended to specify “attaching a first reinforcing strip to a front face of each of the tabs such that each first reinforcing strip is attached to a single one of the tabs.” Independent Claim 22 is also amended to specify “attaching a second reinforcing strip to a rear face of each of the tabs such that each second reinforcing strip is attached to a single one of the tabs.” Dougherty teaches straps used to electrically connect lugs. However, each strap is attached to a plurality of the lugs. Accordingly, Dougherty does not teach reinforcing strips that are each attached to a single one of the tabs and does not anticipate Independent Claim 22.

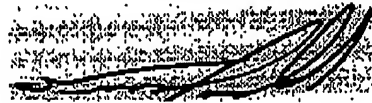
Application No: 10/630,541 Docket No.: Q174-US1

Page 12

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone or e-mail the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis L. Dodd
Reg. No. 42,491
Agent for Applicant(s)

Quallion LLC
P.O. Box 923127
Sylmar, CA 91392-3127
818-833-2014 ph
818-833-2065 fax
travisd@quallion.com